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Most Illegal Products in the Arctic/Antarctic Black Market

Top Products:

- **Polar Bear Products:** The illegal trade in polar bear skins is a booming black market in the Arctic, with skins fetching high prices (around €14,940 per skin). This trade is strictly illegal, as polar bear hunting has been outlawed for decades. The rarity and symbolic value of polar bear items make them highly prized and extremely illicit[1] [2].
- **Weapons:** Firearms and other weapons are commonly trafficked in Arctic criminal circles, especially given the remoteness and lack of law enforcement in some regions. Smuggling and illegal arms sales are a staple of underground economies in harsh environments[3] [4] [5].
- **Drugs:** Drug trafficking, particularly cannabis and possibly harder substances, is a growing problem in the Arctic. The isolation of communities and influx of cash from industrial projects create demand and opportunity for illicit substances[5] [3].
- **Exotic Animal Products:** Beyond polar bears, illegal wildlife products (ivory, rare animal parts) are trafficked in the region, often for use in traditional medicine or as status symbols[3] [4].
- **Human Trafficking:** Organized crime in the Arctic has also been linked to human trafficking for forced labor or exploitation, although this is less visible than wildlife or drug crimes[5] [4].

Most Illegal Tools

Top Tools:

- **Illegal Firearms and Ammunition:** Essential for both protection and enforcement in criminal circles, smuggled or unregistered weapons are a key tool for any villainess operating in the polar underground[3] [4].
- **Advanced Poaching Gear:** For wildlife crimes, tools like silenced rifles, night-vision scopes, and snowmobiles modified for stealth are crucial for hunting protected species like polar bears without detection[1] [2].
- **Satellite Phones and Encrypted Communication Devices:** In remote polar regions, communication is difficult. Criminals use satellite phones and encrypted devices to coordinate illegal activities and evade law enforcement[5].
- **Forged Documents:** Fake permits, IDs, and export papers are vital for moving contraband across borders or through checkpoints[3] [4].
- **Smuggling Vehicles:** Specially outfitted snowmobiles, icebreakers, or even submarines may be used to transport illegal goods across treacherous terrain or under the ice[6] [5].

What Would a Villainess Most Likely Sell?

A villainess in the Arctic or Antarctic black market would most likely specialize in:

- **High-value illegal wildlife products** (especially polar bear skins and rare animal parts), leveraging the rarity and high demand for these items among wealthy collectors and traditional medicine markets[1] [2] [3].
- **Weapons and advanced poaching tools** tailored for extreme environments, catering to other criminals, poachers, and mercenaries[3] [4] [5].
- **Drugs and contraband** that are difficult to obtain in remote settlements, capitalizing on isolation and high prices[5] [3].

These products and tools are not only the most illegal and profitable but also require specialized knowledge of the harsh polar environment, making them the domain of a resourceful and ruthless black market operator.

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1. https://barentsobserver.com/en/nature/2013/02/illegal-polar-bear-trade-increase-28-02
2. https://arcticportal.org/ap-library/news/976-illegal-trade-on-increase-in-russia
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_market
4. https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blackmarket.asp
5. https://arcticportal.org/ap-library/yar-features/138-organized-crime-in-the-arctic
6. https://www.reddit.com/r/worldbuilding/comments/1bggt9t/what_kind_of_things_are_sold_on_the_black_market/